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VIRGINIA SATISFIED
WITH SWANSON.

It is generally believed that Virginia will be allowed to escape a spirited primary election next year. There is nothing specially alarming on the horizon at present, and there is every reason to believe that the attempts on the part of some to blow a blaze into coals that have been virtually extinct during the past four or five years will be prove futile. A few persons in the Old Dominion are not satisfied with an election without there is a decided contest, which bodes no good to a party. A Donnybrook fair without a fight was Hamlet minus Hamlet at one time, while certain Alexandrians in by-gone years looked upon an excursion as lacking interest without several fistieuff encounters occurred among the merry-makers.

England is being criticised for swapping horses while in the stream, as the deposition of General French is termed. The United States is not passing through troubled waters as is Great Britain at present, but all should realize that we live at a time when level heads should be in the United States Senate, and such as have had experience also.

Claude M. Swanson at present the Junior Senator from Virginia. He was called to that high honor by a large majority, all of whom would rejoice to see him remain where is. We have no intention of going into his record but that he has proven to be the right man in the right place in every emergency is generally agreed. His coadjutor, Thomas S. Martin, the Senior Senator, is not only justly recognized as a power in his own state but the party at large is also impressed with that fact. He is in the front ranks of the highest legislative body in the land.

Mr. Swanson's toga is coveted by other able Virginians, and the friends of such are endeavoring to trouble the present tranquil waters by grooming a candidate to oppose him. There is but little doubt that the voters of Virginia would return him as his own successor by a substantial majority.

According to Washington correspondents of a few Virginia papers strong appeals are being made to Representative Carter Glass of Lynchburg, author of the Federal reserve act, to run for the Senate against Senator Claude A. Swanson next year. Mr. Glass, in answer to these appeals, says he will make a definite reply within the next two or three weeks. At present he is not inclined to enter the race.

During the past few days a secret conference was held in Washington, to which Mr. Glass was invited, and representative men from all sections of the State urged the Lynchburg Congressman to oppose Senator Swanson for renomination.

On top of these entreaties there have come letters and telegrams from Richmond, Norfolk, and the Southwest, petitioning Mr. Glass to announce his candidacy.

Representative ones have been to see Mr. Glass, and advised him it is his public duty to oppose Senator Swanson.

Mr. Glass has heretofore stated if it can be shown him there is a public demand for his candidacy he will consent to run. This statement was made before his health became so impaired. It is now believed that Mr. Glass has not the strength to carry on a hard campaign throughout the state.

In view of Mr. Glass's disinclination to run, some have been discussing other candidates to oppose the Junior Virginia Senator. This talk has centered around Representative A. J. Montague. He has positively informed his friends he cannot go into the senatorial fight. The name of Harry St. George Tucker, of Lexington, then was mentioned. The matter, it is stated, will not be taken up with Mr. Tucker, until all means have been exhausted to get Mr. Glass in the race.

While Senator Swanson does not desire opposition to his renomination, he has advised his friends he expects

to win, no matter who opposes him. He has declared he has thoroughly organized the State for a campaign and is ready for all comers.

PATHOS OF CHILDHOOD.

Probably one of the most pathetic compositions in English literature is the sickening and passing away of "Little Nell" in Dickens's "Old Curiosity Shop." The innocent prattle of children who had overheard their parents' conversation concerning the inevitable death of the little heroine will ever be remembered by all who have read it.

At this season children are wont to write letters to Santa Claus in which they tell the jolly old elf what remembrances would please them.

Several years ago there was a family of some opulence in New York City. Two little girls had become part of the household since the man and woman wedded, and joy and peace reigned in the little family until one day some fiend abducted one of the children. Search was made in every direction for the missing child, but day followed day, week week and month month without any tidings being received of the lost one.

It was a terrible blow to the fond parents and especially to the little sister who prayed every night that her companion would be restored to her. Christmas drew near, when the lonely sister concluded she would appeal to Santa Claus. Her letter was pregnant with innocent pathos. "Never mind doll babies, or any other toys for my stocking," she wrote, "but let me awake Christmas morning with sister by my side." Christmas morning came, but the vacant place was still in her bed.

In the same Altoona, Pa., newspaper that yesterday printed a letter to Santa Claus, written by Michael, Karl and Frank Maier, aged 7, 5 and 4 respectively, in which they wrote the jolly old saint, "Don't forget papa and mamma," was an account of the fatal accident which befell their father, Michael Maier, aged 32, an inspector for the Pennsylvania Railroad. While working at the East Altoona roundhouse, he was crushed to death between two locomotives.

THE CONTROVERSY WITH AUSTRIA.

Dispatches which are being sent from Washington by some newspaper correspondents in regard to the present misunderstanding with Austria are injudicious, if not mischievous, as they are calculated to fire the American heart against Austria and to cause more rash talk on the lines of that of former President Roosevelt. Germany, less of an offender than is Austria at the present time, listened to reason in the case of the sinking of the Lusitania, and the wild talk at that time of hostilities between the United States and the Fatherland passed away. We prefer to believe the Austrian cloud will gradually vanish also if the conservative representatives of the governments are allowed to settle the dispute upon principles of common sense.

It will be noted that some correspondents at the national capital are already marking out certain zones in which the United States may strike with its navy. We have no idea that Austria has the slightest intention of adding to the number of nations against which it is now contending, and we prefer to believe that Germany will not allow her ally to be guilty of such an overt act.

The United States has made no unreasonable demands upon Austria. President Wilson has kept himself well behind international law. He merely asks for the country he represents rights which have ever been conceded neutral nations. There are many hot-headed people in Austria as in every other country, and we expected they would flare up at this juncture. It is incumbent upon Francis Joseph to mollify their wounds before dealing with the United States upon diplomatic laws and traditions.

The Baltimore Sun, generally conservative during grave issues, says: "If Congress keeps cool and does nothing to complicate the situation, nothing more serious than a suspension of diplomatic relations with Austria may follow the disagreement between the two governments with respect to the Ancona. So far as the public temper is concerned, the danger is far less acute than it was after the sinking of the Lusitania, and the popular mind is in a far less impressionable and hostile state than it was then. Had the President been carried away by the sentiment represented by Mr. Roosevelt's utterances after the destruction of the Lusitania, the country would not have condemned him very greatly, for in the first shock of that monstrous crime the people of the United States found it extremely difficult to control themselves. We are now very thankful that we had in the White House at that time a coolheaded if not a cold-blooded man, and that he reduced the national temperature by the application of the ice-pack of reason and self-

restraint. Since then we have been in little danger of losing our heads, we have grown far less inclined to become hysterical, and while realizing the gravity and delicacy of our international relations, we are more desirous probably than ever to do nothing which will make us a party to the European conflict. The American people, therefore, are not likely to grow unduly excited over the Ancona crisis, which brings up an old issue with a new defendant, if Congress does not accentuate the trouble by unwise interference or violent debates.

We do not think there is as yet any ground for regarding the controversy as necessarily serious. Austrian diplomacy, like all Old-World diplomacy, knows only roundabout roads. It is for us to teach it the necessity in this case of using a straight and direct path.

NEWS OF THE DAY

Persia it is reported is preparing to enter the war.

Congress adjourned last night for the Christmas holidays.

Charles H. Hayes, aged 80 and his wife, 75, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed their home yesterday at Long Branch, N. J.

Eight members of the crew of a Zeppelin airship which raided London, October 13, were found frozen to death on their return to Germany.

George W. Heim, a grocer at North Capitol street and Seaton place, Washington was found guilty by a jury in the District Supreme Court of having mistreated Carrie F. Wenger, 17 years old, a pupil of Business High School.

The British recruits gained by Lord Derby's enlistment scheme are estimated at 1,750,000, and these recruits, with 270,000 directly enlisted in the last seven weeks, give Great Britain an army of approximately 5,000,000 men.

Two bandits were killed, a third was mortally injured, and a city detective sustained serious wounds in a gun fight which last night followed an attempted hold-up in a saloon in an outlying district of St. Paul, Minn.

Worth Trolley went to death in the electric chair yesterday at Ossining, N. Y., for the murder of John Hallenbeck near Athens. Ten minutes later Ludwig Marquardt, was put to death in the same chair for killing Mrs. Nellie Paulis, at Kingston, N. Y.

Alexander Ruf, an old soldier, yielded, into a Washington undertaking establishment yesterday morning, selected and paid for a coffin, and inquired about the expenses of cremation, which he paid. He then walked out to the sidewalk, and, leaning against a fence, blew out his brains.

Five persons were killed and fifty injured yesterday in a collision between a passenger train and an empty work train on the railroad between Jarro and South Shields, England. Following the collision fire broke out in the coaches of the passenger train, and two were destroyed. The wreck was due to fog.

Six persons—five of them schoolboys and the sixth the driver of the school bus—were killed late yesterday on a grade crossing near Berthold, N. Dak., when a great Northern passenger train struck the omnibus which was taking the children home from school. The accident was believed to be due to a heavy fog which prevented the driver from hearing or seeing the approaching train.

The Senate yesterday passed, and President Wilson approved, a resolution extending for one year the emergency tax law passed a year ago, which expires December 31. By a vote of 45 to 29 the Senate passed the war-tax continuance resolution, which on Thursday was passed by the House. Within an hour President Wilson had approved the measure and had assured the Treasury an added income of about \$7,000,000 a month during 1916.

Five men are known to be dead and more than a score were injured, some probably fatally when a train composed of empty passenger coaches crashed into a Philadelphia bound local train on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad at Felton, four miles below Chester, Pa., late yesterday afternoon. How many more victims are buried beneath the wreckage that litters the track is not known. Survivors say more persons were in the coaches that bore the brunt of the crash than have been accounted for.

Department of Justice officials in New York yesterday arrested two Germans, alleged to be the active heads of the bomb and arson con-

spiracy. They were: Paul Koenig, alleged to be head of the German secret service in this country and former chief of the bureau of investigation for the Hamburg-American line. Richard Emil Leyendecker, an antique dealer. The men are charged specifically with a plot to blow up the Welland Canal, on the border between the United States and Canada.

France suffers from an embarrassment of prisoners of war. She already has begun to transport large numbers of them to England, but as quickly as the number is diminished to any extent fresh delegations arrive from the battle front. From German sources it has been learned that Germany is allowing large numbers of British subjects, interned or imprisoned in Germany, to return to England in groups. This is believed to be due to the seriousness of the food situation in Germany.

A barge containing 620 cavalry remounts for the allies sank with suspicious suddenness yesterday afternoon as the horses were being hoisted aboard the freighter Anglo-Californian for shipment to France. Almost as if the bottom had been knocked out of her, the barge settled into the North River at West Twenty-third street, New York. Before the twenty men aboard could clamber up the side of the Anglo-Californian the barge plunged to the bottom, snapping her lines. The men were picked up by the crew of neighboring barges and lighters.

VIRGINIA NEWS

P. L. Phelps, a young white man of South Norfolk, was run over and instantly killed by a Money Point Car, near the knitting mill curve in South Norfolk Thursday night.

Representative J. Fred C. Talbott, of Maryland, ranking Democratic member of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, predicts that the proposed \$3,500,000 drydock for the Norfolk navy yard will pass the present session of Congress.

Suit was entered in the Circuit Court in Williamsburg Thursday by the Commonwealth against J. Frederick Kernochan, of New York, committee of Miss Marie Marshall to recover the sum of \$900,000, alleged to be due the State and municipality of Williamsburg for back taxes.

G. H. Thomas, 25 years old, driver for the Hagerstown-Clearspring-Hancock jitney bus line, in Hagerstown, Md., committed suicide Thursday, in a bath room. He cut his throat from ear to ear and slashed one arm with a razor. Thomas went to Hancock from his home at Fork Union, Va., where his parents reside, last September. Several days ago, he told the owner of the bus line that he was homesick and was granted a vacation.

The December meeting of the Northern Virginia Farmers' Institute closed yesterday afternoon at Manassas, after a successful session, which was well-attended. The care of live stock was one of the main addresses of the day, while the discussion of the Smith-Lever act was another important feature. Plans and agreements were formulated at the meeting for a Prince William County Fair, to be held in Manassas next fall.

Incensed because Jailer Garnett would not let them have an electric light burning in their cell all night, Lillian de Lackso and Eva Secassa, two young white women prisoners held for the United States in a Hopewell white slave case, yesterday morning made an effort to burn down the Henrico county jail. The two women piled their bed clothing and part of their own clothing and all the rags and scraps they could find in the floor, against the wall and set fire to them. The smoke from the fire filling the jail cells in which they are confined came near suffocating them, and it was on account of this fact that the fire was discovered soon enough to prevent any serious damage to the jail.

William L. Pettit, who was for years associated with a big shipbuilding firm in Baltimore, died Thursday evening. Mr. Pettit was a veteran of the War Between the States. At the beginning of that struggle he entered the Confederate army in the Light Artillery Blues of Norfolk. He was for a time in charge of the Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond, where the Confederate government manufactured a large part of its ammunition. Later he saw active service before Richmond, and was given the rank of captain.

Tony and John Candeloro, the two brothers arrested in Petersburg in

connection with the murder of Poaloa Cona, the young Italian, who died as the result of wounds received in a gun battle fought in an Italian resort on the Petersburg-Hopewell Road on December 5, were held for the grand Jury yesterday.

VETOES RECALL MEASURE

Mayor of Atlanta Disapproves Resolution Passed by Council

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 18.—Mayor James G. Woodward has vetoed resolutions of the City Council calling for an election to be held on January 5 to recall himself and four members of the city police commission. An unofficial poll of Council members indicates that the veto will be sustained. It is expected the matter will be taken into the courts. Six attorneys, to whom Mayor Woodward appealed to for advice, wrote that under the new recall law, the Mayor, in their opinion, could veto Council's action, even though he was directly affected.

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